

15 November 2010

Ms M Lane  
Lilac Cottage  
Oxen Park  
Ulverston  
Cumbria  
LA12 8HG

Dear Ms Lane

### **U5082 BOUTHTRAY BRIDGE – REPAIR OF FLOOD DAMAGE**

Further to recent discussions between Parish Councils and County Council Members I have been asked to update you on the latest position. While at the outset of the summer we were optimistic that repairs to the Bouthray Bridge would be completed this year I regret to inform you that due to the length of time it has taken to resolve issues relating to the work which can be done on this structure repairs will take longer than initially anticipated. This is clearly very disappointing news for both the county council and the local community who I know have suffered the loss of this bridge now for almost a twelve month period.

The repairs to the bridge are proving to be a difficult and complex matter to progress quickly. I hope you will understand that this particular bridge is located in a sensitive part of the area, it is a listed structure and there are a number of environmental considerations that have had to be taken into account. Over and above the consultation requirements to agree an appropriate solution, there are then a range of processes we have had to follow once a solution had been identified and agreed with the relevant agencies. Difficulties with the timing and outcome of the ground investigation and the implications it has had for the design have then added to the timescales.

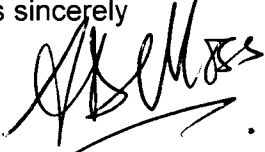
Having completed a significant amount of work in the months following the flood, the length of time it has taken to complete the above planning processes mean we have now missed the Environment Agency window for the repairs to be undertaken before the end of 2010. This coupled with the contractor's considered view that there are significant risks with attempting any works in the river at this location at this time of year means that the permanent repairs will be deferred until the Spring of 2011. For information I've enclosed a background paper which sets out and explains how we've got to where we have with the work on the bridge together with the current position of our work programme.

Having decided we are no longer in a position to complete the repairs before the end of 2010, attention has turned to see what, if anything, can be done to improve the situation for the local community and those in particular who are directly affected by the loss of this bridge. Whilst no firm conclusions have been reached yet, the council is actively exploring the provision of a temporary crossing which would help improve matters. There are difficulties with the provision of any form of temporary bridge at this location and it won't be without difficulties in attempting to find some form of solution that will help reduce the impact of the lack of a permanent bridge. At this point in time though I wouldn't want to raise expectations that we can provide any form of bridge easily.

I would like to reassure you that an awful lot of effort has been made to get where we have in the months following the floods. I appreciate this letter is not good news but please be assured we are doing everything possible to provide a solution and to repair the bridge in such a way that it will be robust and can withstand future flood events much more effectively.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss any of the above, please contact me at the above address. In the meantime, I will ensure I am personally in touch with the farmer who I understand is the person most affected by this disruption.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Moss', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andrew Moss  
Assistant Director | Highways and Transport

Enc.